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TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

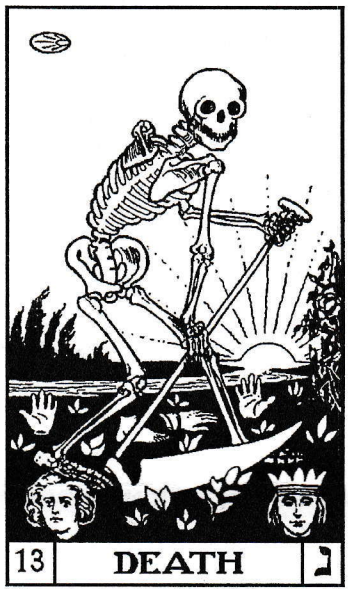
Lesson No. 29

BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM

TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

Lesson Twenty-nine

TRANSFORMATION



So many superstitions are connected with the number 13 as a symbol of bad luck and disaster that you will not be surprised to find it assigned to the Tarot Key entitled **Death**. But, like so many things in occultism, we shall learn that 13 and Death have other meanings for those who know.

Both the number and the title relate to the Law of Transformation which brings about dissolution and change. This change is often felt to be adverse because its outcome is unknown. Many persons fail to realize that without continual change life could not exist, and that even if it could, its monotony would be unbearable.

13 is the number of two Hebrew words, אחד, Achad or Echud, meaning "unity", and אהבה Ahebah or Ahevah, signifying "love". The Unity, the One Power from which all things proceed, is also the Love Power which is the cause of all attractions and affinities.

We generally think of the Love Power as being concerned chiefly with reproduction. Thus to Key 13 is attributed the sign Scorpio, governing the reproductive organs. Scorpio is the natural ruler of the astrological "house of death", the eighth house. The same Love Power which leads to birth is what controls the physical changes resulting in dissolution and death. The Love Power governs both the beginning and the cessation of our bodily activities.

This is important and you will do well to ponder it. There are not two antagonistic powers, one making for life, the other for death. There is only a single power which has a twofold manifestation.

Man fears death because he does not know the meaning of this transformation. "Dissolution is the secret of the Great Work." The dissolution of form is imperative for growth. When forms break down, energy is released to be utilized for further development. (The second law of thermo-dynamics of modern physics recognizes the fact that energy is released when previously established forms of matter break down. Ed.)

Stone disintegrates to form soil and from soil springs the vegetable kingdom. Animals eat the vegetables and incorporate their essence into a higher type of organization. Man eats both animals and vegetables and builds the chemical energy of their cells into his own body. If he learns a secret which is available for all who have ears to hear and are willing to work, man does more than this. He liberates himself from the conditions of physical existence, and by so doing becomes master of the energies which build his body.

When he has achieved this mastery, he is able to maintain his physical body for many years beyond the ordinary span of human life. Furthermore, in the full perfection of this mastery, man is able to disintegrate his physical body at will, and able also to reintegrate it. For such a man, death, as the world knows death, is at an end.

This is an amazing statement. To the average person it sounds utterly preposterous. Possibly it is expecting too much to suppose you will accept this teaching at this stage of your progress. Whether you accept it or not, be sure you know what the teaching is because when you have put yourself in a position to examine the evidence for the doctrine you will undoubtedly be fully persuaded that it is not an extravagant, fanciful claim. More than this, you will ascertain its truth at first hand by performing the experiments which will enable you to demonstrate its accuracy.

In fact, you are beginning these experiments now with this instruction. You have been taught the importance of forming the right sort of mental images. You must visualize yourself as having a body which readily responds to the Will-power at work through your personality. Your clear image of a changed organism which will be a perfect and beautiful body, both in function and appearance, has suggestive power which subconsciousness accepts.

In response to that suggestion, subconsciousness is even now beginning to set in motion processes which lead to the desired transformations. You do not need to tell subconsciousness **how** to do these things. It already knows. Tell it **what** you want it to do and make your picture as clear and concrete as you can.

Thus will man triumph eventually over physical death. Actually he has already triumphed over death, because **man does not die**. It is impractical here to present the tremendous accumulation of evidence now available in proof of his survival of the death of the physical body. Suffice it to say that this is an ascertainable fact. Any interested person may prove to his complete satisfaction that man does not die. Those who are prejudiced refuse to examine the evidence. They who are lazy will not take the trouble. Yet the evidence is abundant and thoroughly convincing. Modern scientific psychic research has fully proven survival of death.

Man is immortal and can never die. Though his bodies change and disintegrate a thousand times, **he** remains. You are approaching a time when you will know this as others know it who have gone this way before you.

As a noun, the Hebrew letter-name Nun, means "fish". As a verb, it signifies "to sprout, to grow, to propagate". For centuries, the fish has been a symbol of Christ, the immortal principle present in every one of us. It is only as we grow "to the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ" that we approach anything like true comprehension of life. The first moment of superconsciousness, the true **Self**-realization, is mystically called the "birth of the Christ-child" in human personality.

The idea suggested by the noun "fish" is closely related to that of propagation, because fish are among the most prolific breeders. It is estimated that the progeny of a single pair of codfish, if they all arrived at maturity, would fill the Atlantic Ocean from shore to shore. This idea of propagation is fully intimated by the attribution of the sign Scorpio to the letter Nun and to Key 13.

Scorpio, governing the reproductive organs, indicates that the force used in reproduction has to do with the liberating, transforming powers of dissolution. Do not be misled by this. What we have just said has nothing in common with the fantastic pseudo-occultism of certain free-love cults. We speak of a **force**.

Ordinarily, this force is utilized in the reproduction of the species. It may be applied to higher purposes. It may be used to change your consciousness so that you will **know** yourself to be immortal. It may be used also to modify the metabolism of your body so that you may renew it continually, or, if you so desire, dissolve it instantly and as quickly reconstitute it. This last attainment, of course, is not to be expected in your immediate future.

Be careful not to get any false notions. We suggest no abnormal restraint of the sex-function. We do not recommend celibacy. Special instruction for the higher direction of the Scorpio force is always reserved for those who have demonstrated their fitness to receive such information and use it wisely. It will come to you when you are ready for it.

The information you are receiving now aims to aid subconsciousness in bringing you to the stage where you are qualified to undertake more advanced work. Purity of thought and action are essential. For the rest, what you learn from these pages is sufficient for the present.

Scorpio is ruled by Mars and it is the Mars force in the human organism to which we refer. Mars is also ruler of Aries, symbolized by Key 4. Aries is the sign which governs the head and brain. Aries is called the **day** throne of Mars, while Scorpio is the **night** throne. When the Mars force, working in the darkness and concealment of Scorpio, is raised by occult practice so that it energizes brain centers ruled by Aries, it brings one into the daylight of the clear vision of reality represented by the Emperor.

According to modern astrology, Uranus is exalted in Scorpio. In Tarot, Uranus corresponds to the Fool representing superconsciousness. The highest expression of the Uranian influence in

human personality is that which results in firsthand knowledge of immortality. This is brought about through the activity of the **Love Power.**

Both death and inheritance are connected with the eighth house of the horoscope, the natural house of the eighth sign, Scorpio. Our most precious heritage is this power which ordinarily manifests itself in bodily death.

The very power which, because we misunderstand it and misapply it, results in disease and death, is the power whereby we may experience perpetual health and immortality. This is the power of life and growth to all who obey its law. Only to those who disobey it is it the instrument of death and destruction.

In this connection, remember that the serpent, the scorpion and the eagle are all used to symbolize Scorpio. Remember, also, that our modern science is beginning to make use of the beneficent action of serpent venom, modified by human intelligence, for the relief of disease. So does external science catch up, over and over again, with the intuition of the wise who invented the esoteric symbols.

Give a great deal of thought this week to the ideas of dissolution and change. Learn to welcome change, and overcome fear of it. The future holds what you have earned, in conformity with past action and with patterns you are **now making**. Welcome it with a smile.

COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

KEY 13. DEATH

Yellow:	Sun, band on man's crown.
Green:	Leaves and rosebush.
Blue:	Stream.
Brown:	Scythe handle.
Steel:	Scythe blade.
White:	Skeleton, rose, cuff on hand in center of picture, seed.
Blonde:	Woman's hair.
Gold:	Points on man's crown.
Red:	Background.